

C1 pretreating the plants by shortening and separating the plant stems thereby forming a fibre mass of vegetable fibres, forming a mat with randomly oriented fibres by a dry forming process, forming inter-fibre bonds between the fibres for fixing the mat with the bonded fibres.

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C2 15. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the forming inter-fibre bonds comprises partially establishing the bonds during fibrillation of the fibres.

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C3 17. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the forming fibres comprises forming fibres of similar material.

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C4 23. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the forming inter-fibre bonds comprises applying binders for establishing the inter-fibre bonds.

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C5 26. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the pre-treatment further comprises scutching the stems in a hammer mill thereby shortening the fibres to a desired length and separating the fibres within a desired length interval by a rotating riddle, and wherein the dry-forming comprises forming some of the fibres into the mat by blowing the fibres into a forming head disposed above a forming wire.

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27. (Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the forming the mat comprises adding between about 0 % and 50 % binder for fixing the formed mat.

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C6 29. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the shortening and separating the plant stems comprises shortening and separating in a dry condition, and wherein the pre-treating

furthcr comprises pulping the plant stems by boiling in purified water under pressure or in an extruder, chemically treating the fibres, washing and drying the fibres before dry-forming the fibres into the mat.

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C6 34. (Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the forming the absorbing mat comprises incorporating the absorbing mat on a molded composite product.

C7 35. (Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the forming the absorbing mat comprises incorporating the absorbing mat on a strongly reinforced composite product.

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